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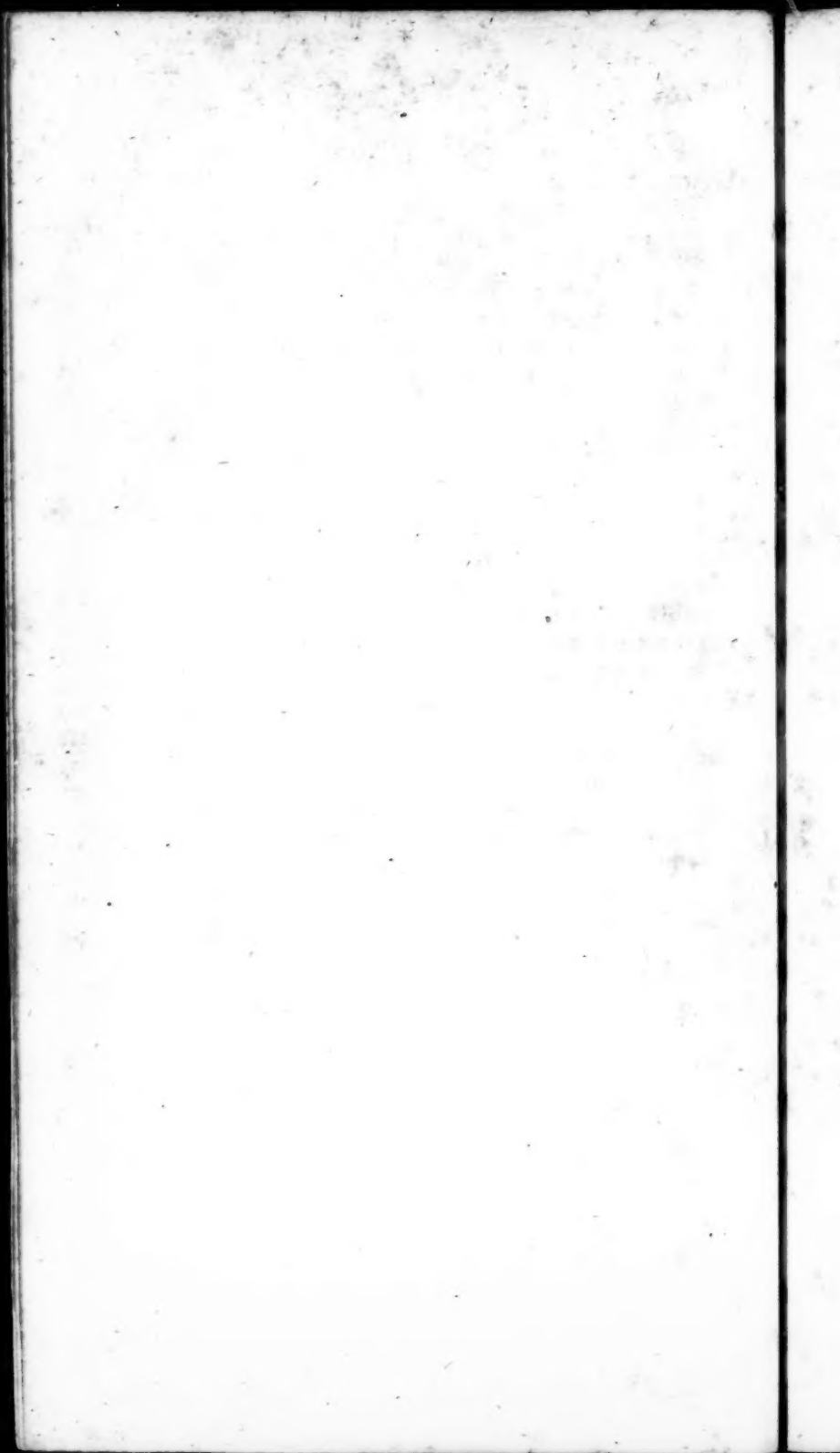
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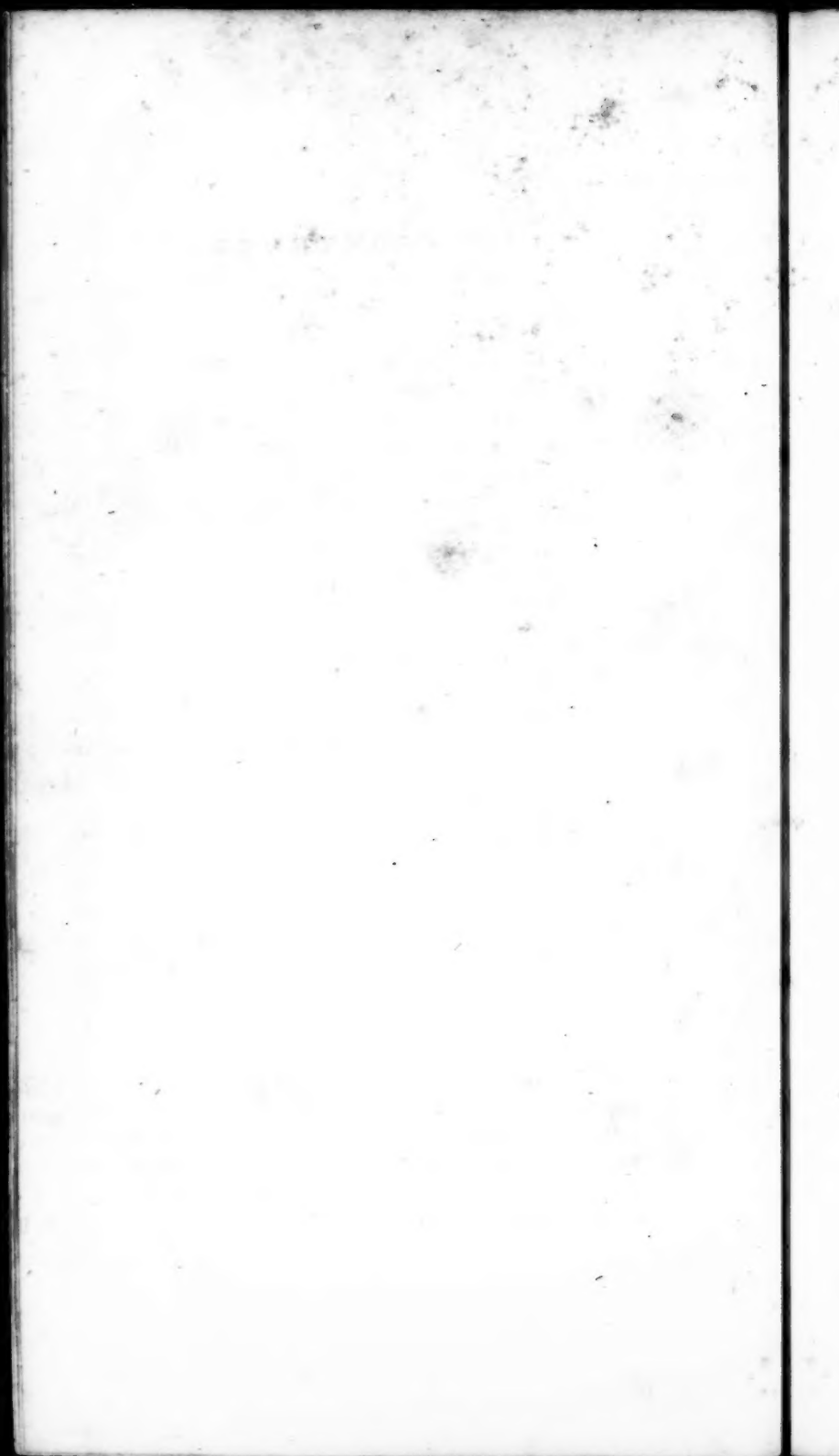
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Like all new undertakings, the present publication has met with its share of untoward circumstances to delay the issuing of it according to letter of my prospectus—among them, the entire failure of the person who was to furnish the engraving for the title page for this first number is a principal one,—and must be my apology for presenting it without; it will however appear to the next.

M. E.



TO PATRONS.

If there be any who require an excuse from me for thus presenting myself before an American public, I refer them to my necessities. These have urged me before a world, from whose view I had ever shrunk with that instinctive feeling which I trust is mine, in common with the rest of my sex. So far from being desirous to court the public attention, as some would insinuate, it is well known that I have scarcely been known beyond the precincts of my own family and friends until the present time. To me it is a punishment from which I had enjoyed the immunity of many years; I gloried in that immunity, for my family was my world, so long as I could perform towards it the duties of a wife and a mother. I looked at the world without, but as through a casement I might gaze upon an agitated ocean with feelings though allied to terror, yet not of terror, because accompanied with the consciousness of safety. It was not until the overwhelming tide of calamity, like a mighty torrent had borne me and my all upon that wide ocean, and mingled me with its waves, that I knew what were its trials and its miseries. Well may I now feel as the doe chased from its covert of years, who, with timid steps measures the wide campaign, but finds no shelter, and whilst lamenting the loss of happier days, hears the cruel hunter close upon her heels.

But why speak in the language of apology? Is literary labour unbecoming the female pen; is it incompatible with the dignity of the female character, or repugnant to feminine delicacy? I trust not. The best of our sex have embarked in it with various success, and although necessity urges me upon the career, it is one of which I need not be ashamed. The region of letters is a pure Republic, where there is no distinction but that of talent; sex presents no barrier to literary eminence, and female brows have worn the garland and the wreath.

Many persons both friendly and otherwise, have objected more particularly to the political part of my prospectus. On this subject I have not

been properly understood, and I wish now to be more explicit. I did not intend to propose myself as a championess in the political arena; for I will engage in no *party* warfare, more especially in such a contest as that which is now raging throughout the land, and which promises to increase in bitterness and be lastingly severe. This I feel would be unsuited to me. Female forms are not expected where stout hearts are wanted, because such hearts are rarely lodged in female bosoms. Once in a thousand years a Penthesilea, an Artemisa, or a Joan, may be seen not only mingling in the storm, but guiding it. They are however rare exceptions to the laws of nature, proving the strength and universality of those laws. Inspired beyond their sex, the poet and the historian have deemed them if not goddess born, yet goddess led, and however they are to be regarded principally in the light of heroines in the tented field, and although the field of party is one of combat, where wounds poignant though not mortal are given and received, it is one in which nothing feminine should enter, my whole nature shudders at the bare thought of entering it. I desire no distinction that may not be found in the known and usual paths of life, and in the proper vocation of my sex. But if there be a course, honest without severity; firm without obstinacy; one in which the mirror of party, which distorts, will be supplied by that of patriotism which beautifies,—a course high minded, independent and sincere and worthy of my sex, such course will be mine.

There are some who regard the sciences, among which they rank government and politics as too masculine to engage the attention of female writers however mildly and humbly they may be treated; but until they shew that in the materials of knowledge there is a distinction of sex, and confine their own researches to the division which they consider peculiarly their own, we of “softer nature” will hardly listen to their complaints of usurpation or invasion on our part. Still there is no knowledge, of which the elements at least, should be withheld from those who may be wives, mothers, and companions of the hardier sex, and because we have no voice in the government, have we no voice in the nation? because ye have had the power to stifle the one will ye claim the right to smother the other.—

But thus it has always been with arbitrary power, it has ever made its first encroachment a plea for those which are to follow, and has planted its feet upon one concession, that it may reach another. That power having curtailed us of our just proportion in the political scale would reduce us to nothing, and whilst it would make us subserve the especial interests of others, would give us no interest in the Republic—although this is our country; although we yield not to them in patriotism; although we owe a kindred existence to the fathers, and are the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of the men of this nation.

In regard to the enterprize in which I have embarked, it cannot be expected that I will enter far into the field of abstruse politics as a writer, where I have chiefly the capacity of a gleaner;—occasionally something will appear not unworthy or unsuited to the pen of a female. I shall, however, receive assistance from those who to the *advantages* of sex, and the superiority of genius, have added the lucubrations of years, and the profit of experience, and when that assistance is wanting, I will endeavour to supply the deficiency by selections as judicious and suited to the various tastes of my patrons as may be in my power. Engaged in a task of singular delicacy and of constant toil I dare not presume that my paper will always please; and aware of the great number and variety of excellent literary original productions of our own country, from some cause which perhaps cannot be explained, few of these are of Maryland origin; her sons and daughters having contributed but sparingly. Why, with such an opening, may not this effort of mine command success, should it deserve it?

In the literary department, however feeble my ability and knowledge, the contents will be partly editorial, partly communicated, relying largely on indigenous productions, it will be the constant aim of the Editor to nurture with fervent kindness every original production of merit. We therefore respectfully invite Marylanders of both sexes to lend a generous aid, and hope that they will not prove reluctant to this request. Occasionally a well written review will be thankfully received, and as we do not pretend to the high office of professional criticism, criticism shall with us always wear as mild and benign an aspect as may be consistent with truth.

THE EDITOR.